

Health Care Financing

# RESEARCH BRIEF

These brief reports from the Office of Research, Office of Research and Demonstrations, provide program information on current health care issues.

They are based on data from the Medicare statistical files developed and maintained by the Bureau of Data Management and Strategy, Health Care Financing Administration.



Health Care Financing Administration  
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REPORTS

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Medicare: Use and Cost of Home  
Health Agency Services, 1983



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**Medicare: Use and Cost of Home Health Agency Services, 1983**

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The home health agency (HHA) benefit under the Medicare program was established by Congress, effective July 1966, to provide less expensive "follow-on care" to acute inpatient care. The original intent of the law was to provide lower-level acute care services--such as intermittent skilled nursing care, physical therapy, home health aide services, etc.--in the home to reduce inpatient length of stay, thereby cutting costs to the Medicare program.

The short-stay hospital inpatient benefit, however, has dominated the use of Part A services, accounting annually for about 95 percent of all Part A expenditures. HHA services have consistently accounted for only a small share of Medicare Part A expenditures--e.g., 2 percent in 1980. The infrequent use of HHA services during the first 15 years of the program is generally attributed to the nature of Medicare's retrospective cost-based system (in place until October of 1983), which encouraged hospitals to render a greater number and variety of inpatient services, since the more services they rendered the more they would be reimbursed. In addition, stringent eligibility requirements limited or precluded many beneficiaries from the use of HHA services. Under these circumstances, health care was more likely to be rendered in the inpatient setting even though, in many instances, lower level acute home care services were probably more appropriate.

There has been in recent years, however, a fairly substantial increase in the use of Medicare HHA services, reflecting somewhat the passage of the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-499). This legislation (effective July 1981) liberalized the use of the HHA benefit by:

- Removing the limit on the number of HHA visits.
- Eliminating the 3-day prior hospitalization stay under Part A.
- Eliminating the deductible for HHA services under Part B.
- Permitting proprietary HHA's to operate in States not having licensure laws.

The potential use of Medicare HHA services was substantially enhanced with the passage of the Medicare prospective payment system (PPS), which became effective October 1, 1983 (P.L. 98-21). Short-stay hospitals participating in the Medicare program are now paid a predetermined, fixed rate for each inpatient stay, according to the diagnosis-related group code assigned to each patient. Under PPS, hospitals earn a profit when their costs fall below the prospective payment or absorb a loss when their costs exceed the prospective payment. Therefore, it is now in the best interest of hospitals to send patients home or to another institutional setting as soon as possible.

The primary purpose of this report, therefore, is to provide HHA data to measure and evaluate the effect and influence of the above legislative actions. Preliminary data indicate a dramatic increase in the use of HHA services, reflecting substantial changes in the makeup of the HHA industry (the industry is expected to evolve towards more chain and provider-affiliated arrangements) and in the nature and scope of services rendered. It will, however, be very difficult to accurately estimate the individual components associated with an increase in the use of HHA services; that is, to accurately attribute what proportion of the increase is due to PPS, to the Omnibus Reconciliation Act, to prior trends, etc.

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Selected Data Highlights

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Table 1 - Trends in Utilization of Medicare Home Health Agency Services for Selected Years, 1974-1984

- The number of persons receiving home health agency (HHA) services increased from 0.39 million in 1974 to an estimated 1.52 million in 1984, an average annual compound growth rate of 14.5 percent (Figure 1). The user rate increased from 16 persons per 1,000 enrollees in 1974 to 50 persons per 1,000 in 1984, a difference of 212 percent.
- The number of HHA visits increased from 8.1 million in 1974 to 40.3 million in 1984, an average compound growth rate of 17.5 percent. The number of visits per 1,000 enrollees increased from 340 to 1,324, a difference of 289 percent, reflecting for the most part, the increase in the number of users per 1,000 enrollees.
- Between 1974 and 1984, total charges for HHA services under the Medicare program increased thirteenfold, rising from \$0.15 billion to \$2.0 billion, an average compound growth rate of 30 percent (Figure 2).
- During this period, reimbursements for HHA services to Medicare beneficiaries increased almost twelvefold, rising from \$0.14 billion to \$1.67 billion, an average annual compound growth rate of 28 percent.
- The average HHA reimbursement per person increased from \$360 in 1974 to \$1,099 in 1984; the average HHA expenditure per enrollee rose from \$6 to \$55.
- HHA expenditures, as a proportion of total Medicare expenditures, rose from 1.2 percent in 1974 to nearly 3.0 percent in 1984 (Unpublished data).

Table 2 - Medicare Home Health Agency Services by Census Region and State Within Division, 1983

- Among the four United States census regions, the relative use of HHA services ranged from a low of 39 persons per 1,000 enrollees in the North Central region to a high of 58 persons per 1,000 enrollees in the Northeast region, a difference of 49 percent.
- The number of HHA visits in the Northeast region was 1,646 per 1,000 enrollees or 34 percent greater than the national average (1,227 per 1,000 enrollees).
- The average charge per HHA visit in the Northeast (\$38) was the lowest among the regions, 13 percent below the national average (\$43). The highest average charge per visit was in the West region (\$54).
- Among the 50 States, the number of persons served ranged from 12 per 1,000 enrollees in Alaska to 72 per 1,000 in Vermont and Mississippi. The average charge per visit ranged from \$25 in Iowa to \$64 in Alaska.

Table 3 - Medicare Home Health Agency Services by Age, Sex, and Medicare Status, 1983

- Among the aged beneficiaries, the number of persons per 1,000 enrollees receiving HHA services increased substantially with age. The user rate for persons 85 years of age and over (108 per 1,000 enrollees) was over 8 times greater than the rate for persons aged 65 to 66 (13 per 1,000 enrollees). Similarly, the number of visits per 1,000 enrollees was nearly 9 times greater for those aged 85 and over (2,937 per 1,000 enrollees) than for those aged 65 to 66 (326 per 1,000 enrollees). On the other hand, the number of visits and reimbursement per person did not increase substantially with age.
- Women used substantially more HHA services than men. The user rate among women (50.3 persons per 1,000 enrollees) was 33 percent higher than for men (37.8 persons per 1,000 enrollees). Similarly, the number of visits per 1,000 enrollees was 37 percent higher among women (1,386) than men (1,011). These differences between men and women in the use of HHA services held, for the most part, for each age group. There was little difference, however, in the number of visits per person for men (27) and women (28).
- Aged beneficiaries used a much higher rate of HHA services than disabled beneficiaries. The number of persons per 1,000 enrollees receiving services was over 50 percent higher for the aged (46.5) than the disabled (30.9); the visit rate per 1,000 enrollees was 25 percent higher for the aged (1,252) than the disabled (999). On the other hand, the disabled users (32) had a much higher rate of visits per user than aged users (27).

Table 4 - Medicare Home Health Agency Services by Type of Agency and Number of Visits, 1983

- Visiting nurses associations (VNA's) furnished more HHA visits than any other type of agency during 1983. They provided 12.1 million visits (33 percent of all HHA visits) to 0.46 million Medicare beneficiaries (34 percent of all persons served), an average of 26 visits per person.
- Proprietary HHA's rendered approximately 7.6 million visits (21 percent) to 0.23 million persons (17 percent) during 1983, an average of 33 visits per person. This represents a dramatic threefold increase in the use of proprietary HHA services since 1980, reflecting the legislation (Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1980) which permitted proprietary HHA's to participate in States not having licensure laws.
- Approximately 40 percent (0.54 million persons) of all beneficiaries served received 20 visits or more under the Medicare HHA program. These persons accounted for 82 percent of all HHA visits and 81 percent of the total HHA charges.
- Proprietary HHA's had the highest number of visits per person served (33) and the highest average total charge per person served (\$1,675). Hospital-based HHA's showed the highest average total charge per visit (\$56).

Table 5 - Medicare Home Health Agency Services by Type of Visit and Type of Agency, 1983

- Nearly 94 percent (1.27 million) of all persons served (1.35 million) received HHA nursing care services under the Medicare program during 1983. Approximately 40 percent (0.55 million) of the HHA beneficiaries served received home health aide services.
- Nursing care visits (17.8 million) accounted for nearly half of all HHA visits (36.8 million). Home health aide visits accounted for about 35 percent of all HHA visits.
- The average number of visits per person served ranged from 20 for combined government and voluntary agencies to 33 for proprietary agencies, a difference of 65 percent. The average charge per visit ranged from \$34 for government HHA's to \$53 for hospital-based HHA's, a difference of 56 percent.



Figure 1

# NUMBER OF PERSONS USING MEDICARE

HOME HEALTH AGENCY SERVICES, 1974-1984

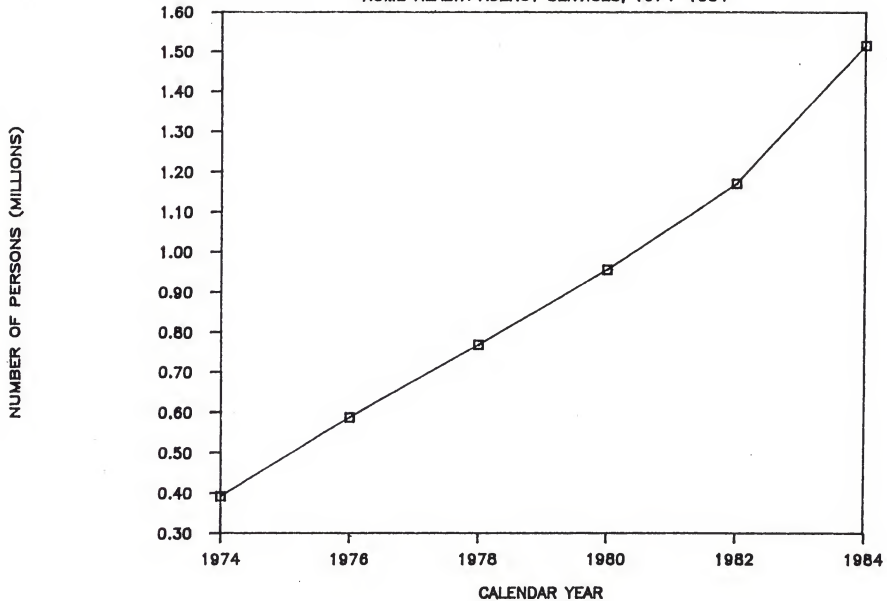


Figure 2

# MEDICARE HOME HEALTH AGENCY CHARGES,

1974-1984

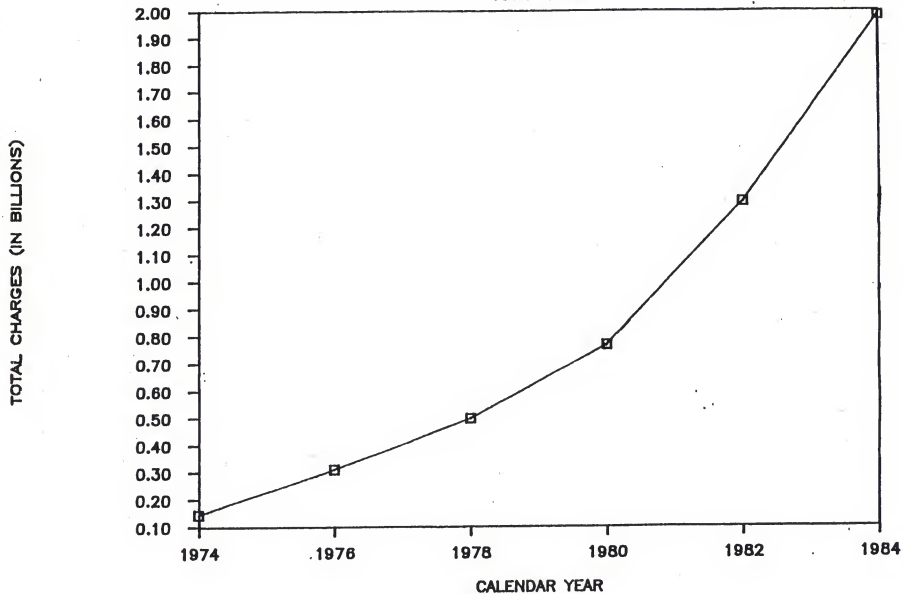


TABLE 1

TRENDS IN THE UTILIZATION OF MEDICARE HOME HEALTH AGENCY SERVICES:  
PERSONS SERVED, VISITS, CHARGES, AND REIMBURSEMENTS FOR SELECTED YEARS: 1974 - 1983

YEAR OF SERVICE	PERSONS SERVED		VISITS			TOTAL CHARGE		VISIT CHARGES			REIMBURSEMENTS		
	NUMBER IN THOUSANDS	PER 1,000 ENROLLEES	NUMBER IN THOUSANDS	PER PERSON SERVED	PER 1,000 ENROLLEES	AMOUNT IN THOUSANDS	AMOUNT IN THOUSANDS	PER VISIT	PER PERSON SERVED	PER ENROLLEE	AMOUNT IN THOUSANDS	PER PERSON SERVED	PER ENROLLEE
1974	392.7	16	8,070	21	340	\$147,499	\$137,406	\$17	\$350	\$6	\$141,464	\$360	\$6
1976	588.7	23	13,335	23	520	312,325	292,697	22	497	11	289,851	492	11
1978	769.7	28	17,345	23	639	500,747	474,498	27	617	18	435,322	566	16
1980	957.4	34	22,428	23	788	770,703	734,718	33	767	26	662,133	692	23
1982	1,171.9	40	30,787	26	1,044	1,295,454	1,232,684	40	1,052	42	1,104,715	943	37
1983	1,351.2	45	36,844	27	1,227	1,657,024	1,596,989	43	1,182	53	1,398,092	1,035	47

TABLE 2

MEDICARE HOME HEALTH AGENCY SERVICES: PERSONS SERVED, VISITS, CHARGES, AND REIMBURSEMENTS  
BY CENSUS REGION AND STATE WITHIN DIVISION: 1983

RESIDENCE	PERSONS SERVED		VISITS			VISIT CHARGES					REIMBURSEMENTS	
	NUMBER IN THOUSANDS	PER 1,000 ENROLLEES	NUMBER IN THOUSANDS	PER PERSON SERVED	PER 1,000 ENROLLEES	TOTAL CHARGES 1/ IN THOUSANDS	AMOUNT IN THOUSANDS	PER VISIT	PER PERSON SERVED	PER ENROLLEE	AMOUNT IN THOUSANDS	PER ENROLLEE
ALL AREAS	1,351	45.0	36,844	27.3	1,227	\$1,657,024	\$1,596,989	\$43	\$1,182	\$53	\$1,398,092	\$47
UNITED STATES	1,330	45.2	36,294	27.3	1,234	1,623,857	1,564,512	43	1,176	53	1,378,564	47
NORTHEAST	398	57.8	11,333	28.5	1,646	444,095	435,731	38	1,094	63	390,280	57
NORTH CENTRAL	297	38.8	7,002	23.6	916	302,290	296,654	42	1,000	39	263,324	34
SOUTH	429	43.7	13,366	31.2	1,362	615,579	586,299	44	1,368	60	492,637	50
WEST	207	41.0	4,593	22.2	911	261,894	245,828	54	1,190	49	232,322	46
NEW ENGLAND	115	65.5	3,693	32.2	2,140	117,497	115,410	31	1,005	67	24,977	63
CONNECTICUT	29	68.5	923	32.1	2,196	30,321	30,547	33	1,061	73	29,583	70
MAINE	8	48.9	172	21.4	1,044	5,799	5,623	33	697	34	5,674	34
MASSACHUSETTS	37	70.1	2,053	36.3	2,542	63,374	61,755	30	1,091	76	5,575	70
NEW HAMPSHIRE	7	56.1	131	19.4	1,091	4,064	4,119	32	613	34	3,906	33
RHODE ISLAND	10	66.9	307	31.5	2,109	10,937	10,378	34	1,066	71	10,627	73
VERMONT	5	72.5	108	21.9	1,586	3,003	2,988	28	608	44	2,836	42
MIDDLE ATLANTIC	283	54.9	7,640	26.9	1,481	326,597	320,321	42	1,130	62	234	54
NEW JERSEY	54	54.9	1,633	30.0	1,646	60,017	59,159	36	1,087	60	58,932	59
NEW YORK	107	44.7	2,870	24.9	1,113	131,881	128,537	48	1,199	54	111,740	47
PENNSYLVANIA	122	68.9	3,337	27.4	1,888	134,700	132,625	40	1,089	75	110,308	62
EAST NORTH CENTRAL	200	38.5	4,365	21.8	840	200,500	199,250	46	995	38	7,393	34
ILLINOIS	59	41.9	1,448	24.5	1,028	74,702	73,618	51	1,248	52	59,629	42
INDIANA	18	26.0	399	22.6	589	14,616	14,265	36	809	21	13,709	20
MICHIGAN	46	42.5	1,034	22.3	946	52,465	52,304	51	1,127	48	45,048	41
OHIO	52	37.7	948	18.4	693	39,818	39,484	42	765	29	37,135	27
WISCONSIN	26	39.4	636	21.0	827	18,899	19,578	37	767	30	18,626	29
WEST NORTH CENTRAL	96	39.4	2,637	27.3	1,078	101,789	97,404	37	1,010	40	11,753	36
IOWA	14	31.9	306	22.4	713	7,667	7,696	25	563	18	7,729	18
KANSAS	13	37.9	383	30.1	1,141	13,033	13,104	34	1,030	39	12,554	37
MINNESOTA	14	25.9	233	16.8	435	9,770	9,847	42	708	18	9,494	18
MISSOURI	45	61.4	1,486	33.3	2,048	62,041	57,980	39	1,301	80	50,245	69
NEBRASKA	7	32.4	146	20.1	649	6,446	5,975	41	821	27	6,539	29
NORTH DAKOTA	2	23.2	46	21.9	507	1,608	1,569	34	743	17	1,461	16
SOUTH DAKOTA	2	21.2	36	16.5	350	1,223	1,232	35	573	12	1,158	11
SOUTH ATLANTIC	222	43.5	6,631	29.9	1,301	288,179	277,349	42	1,250	54	148,743	47
DELAWARE	4	55.9	147	36.5	2,042	4,556	4,362	30	1,081	60	4,020	56
DIST. OF COLUMBIA	4	52.0	101	24.9	1,294	4,138	4,335	43	1,072	56	4,104	53
FLORIDA	105	55.6	3,518	33.6	1,869	155,909	152,547	43	1,456	81	121,638	65
GEORGIA	21	33.5	646	30.8	1,032	34,642	32,396	50	1,545	52	23,892	38
MARYLAND	22	47.1	522	24.2	1,142	24,634	24,143	46	1,122	53	23,297	51
NORTH CAROLINA	25	34.5	590	23.3	802	23,565	20,707	35	817	28	23,254	32
SOUTH CAROLINA	16	44.2	435	27.4	1,212	16,175	15,340	35	966	43	14,890	41
VIRGINIA	15	25.5	412	26.7	683	14,473	14,150	34	917	23	17,036	28
WEST VIRGINIA	10	35.0	261	26.2	916	10,087	9,370	36	940	33	8,929	31

SEE FOOTNOTE AT END OF TABLE

TABLE 2 (CONTINUED)

 MEDICARE HOME HEALTH AGENCY SERVICES: PERSONS SERVED, VISITS, CHARGES, AND REIMBURSEMENTS  
 BY CENSUS REGION AND STATE WITHIN DIVISION: 1983

RESIDENCE	PERSONS SERVED		VISITS			TOTAL CHARGES 1/ IN THOUSANDS	VISIT CHARGES				REIMBURSEMENTS	
	NUMBER IN THOUSANDS	PER 1,000 ENROLLEES	NUMBER IN THOUSANDS	PER PERSON SERVED	PER 1,000 ENROLLEES		AMOUNT IN THOUSANDS	PER VISIT	PER PERSON SERVED	PER ENROLLEE	AMOUNT IN THOUSANDS	PER ENROLLEE
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL	94	48.4	3,459	36.8	1,779	160,230	149,493	43	1,590	77	15,334	63
ALABAMA	23	46.3	737	31.6	1,429	31,864	31,141	42	1,333	60	24,977	48
KENTUCKY	14	29.7	305	21.3	632	13,312	12,195	40	849	25	11,931	25
MISSISSIPPI	24	71.9	1,060	43.3	3,117	49,943	44,550	42	1,840	132	35,142	104
TENNESSEE	32	62.7	1,367	42.6	2,244	65,111	61,617	45	1,919	101	50,031	82
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL	113	40.7	3,276	29.1	1,183	167,169	159,456	49	1,416	58	29,583	47
ARKANSAS	13	36.0	323	24.9	897	15,831	15,437	48	1,191	43	11,763	33
LOUISIANA	19	40.7	653	35.0	1,425	33,698	29,914	46	1,601	65	25,366	55
OKLAHOMA	14	33.3	290	21.1	702	14,347	14,415	50	1,049	35	12,045	29
TEXAS	67	43.7	2,011	29.9	1,306	103,294	99,590	50	1,482	65	80,392	52
MOUNTAIN	43	33.9	1,030	23.7	805	48,122	46,196	45	1,064	36	4,020	34
ARIZONA	8	21.1	155	19.7	416	8,373	7,592	49	965	20	7,393	20
COLORADO	14	48.5	354	25.2	1,224	17,608	17,875	51	1,274	62	15,334	53
IDAHO	4	38.1	99	23.2	883	4,478	3,908	39	912	35	4,478	40
MONTANA	3	29.4	63	21.1	620	2,200	2,187	35	735	22	2,140	21
NEVADA	3	28.7	64	25.3	726	3,312	3,127	49	1,242	36	3,170	36
NEW MEXICO	7	46.6	141	21.3	994	6,681	6,479	46	980	46	5,641	40
UTAH	4	27.6	101	28.3	780	3,491	3,217	32	901	25	3,285	25
WYOMING	2	36.0	53	33.9	1,220	1,979	1,810	34	1,153	42	1,920	44
PACIFIC	163	43.4	3,562	21.8	945	213,773	199,631	56	1,223	53	4,104	50
ALASKA	3/	12.4	4	19.3	239	244	235	64	1,239	15	234	15
CALIFORNIA	124	44.4	2,760	22.3	988	170,176	158,809	58	1,280	57	148,743	53
HAWAII	3	27.2	49	19.2	522	3,152	2,827	58	1,115	30	2,953	32
OREGON	14	39.4	273	19.5	768	15,326	14,619	53	1,043	41	14,965	42
WASHINGTON	22	44.3	476	21.2	940	24,875	23,142	49	1,031	46	22,067	44
OUTLYING AREAS 2/	21	54.2	550	26.2	1,423	33,167	32,477	59	1,547	84	19,528	50

1/ INCLUDES CHARGES FOR DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES IN ADDITION TO VISIT CHARGES.

2/ INCLUDES PUERTO RICO AND OTHER OUTLYING AREAS.

3/ MORE THAN ZERO BUT LESS THAN 500 PERSONS SERVED.

TABLE 3

 MEDICARE HOME HEALTH AGENCY SERVICES: PERSONS SERVED, VISITS, CHARGES, AND REIMBURSEMENTS  
 BY AGE, SEX, AND MEDICARE STATUS: 1983

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS	PERSONS SERVED		VISITS			TOTAL CHARGES IN THOUSANDS	VISIT CHARGES			REIMBURSEMENTS			
	NUMBER IN THOUSANDS	PER 1,000 ENROLLEES	NUMBER IN THOUSANDS	PER PERSON SERVED	PER 1,000 ENROLLEES		AMOUNT IN THOUSANDS	PER VISIT	PER PERSON SERVED	PER ENROLLEE	AMOUNT IN THOUSANDS	PER PERSON SERVED	PER ENROLLEE
TOTAL	1,351	46.0	36,844	27.3	1,227	\$1,657,024	\$1,596,989	\$49	\$1,182	\$53	\$1,398,092	\$1,035	\$47
AGE													
UNDER AGE 65	90	30.9	2,914	32.3	999	133,898	126,716	43	1,405	43	111,862	1,241	38
65-66	48	13.3	1,184	24.6	326	54,713	52,624	44	1,091	14	46,108	956	13
67-68	74	21.3	1,939	26.2	559	88,895	85,580	44	1,158	25	75,124	1,017	22
69-70	87	28.8	2,310	26.5	709	106,187	102,464	44	1,176	31	89,064	1,022	27
71-72	98	33.5	2,625	26.8	898	119,461	115,105	44	1,174	39	100,608	1,026	34
73-74	107	40.6	2,882	27.0	1,097	131,676	127,075	44	1,192	48	110,749	1,039	42
75-79	289	55.4	7,811	27.0	1,499	350,885	339,741	43	1,176	65	296,351	1,025	57
80-84	267	81.3	7,215	27.1	2,202	321,129	310,533	43	1,165	95	271,433	1,018	83
85 AND OVER	292	107.6	7,964	27.3	2,937	350,180	337,152	42	1,156	124	296,792	1,018	109
SEX													
MALE	481	37.8	12,863	26.8	1,011	588,163	561,774	44	1,168	44	493,025	1,025	39
FEMALE	870	50.3	23,982	27.6	1,386	1,068,861	1,035,215	43	1,189	60	905,067	1,040	52
MEDICARE STATUS													
AGED	1,261	46.5	33,931	26.9	1,252	1,523,126	1,470,273	43	1,166	54	1,286,229	1,020	47
DISABLED	90	30.9	2,914	32.3	999	133,898	126,716	43	1,405	43	111,862	1,241	38

TABLE 4

MEDICARE HOME HEALTH AGENCY SERVICES: PERSONS SERVED, VISITS, TOTAL CHARGES AND REIMBURSEMENTS  
DISTRIBUTED BY TYPE OF AGENCY AND NUMBER OF VISITS TO PERSONS SERVED: 1983

NUMBER OF VISITS TO PERSONS SERVED	PERSONS SERVED		VISITS		TOTAL CHARGES		REIMBURSEMENTS	
	NUMBER IN THOUSANDS	PERCENT	NUMBER IN THOUSANDS	PERCENT	AMOUNT IN THOUSANDS	PERCENT	AMOUNT IN THOUSANDS	PERCENT
<b>ALL AGENCIES 1/</b>								
TOTAL	1,351	100.0	36,844	100.0	\$1,657,024	100.0	\$1,398,092	100.0
1-9	511	37.8	2,392	6.5	114,794	6.9	98,195	7.0
10-19	302	22.3	4,202	11.4	199,571	12.0	169,244	12.1
20-29	164	12.2	3,960	10.7	185,946	11.2	156,911	11.2
30-39	101	7.5	3,460	9.4	150,584	9.7	135,212	9.7
40-49	67	4.9	2,950	8.0	135,144	8.2	113,897	8.1
50-99	138	10.2	9,454	25.7	421,461	25.4	355,813	25.4
100 AND OVER	68	5.1	10,425	28.3	439,525	26.5	368,819	26.4
<b>VISITING NURSES ASSOCIATION</b>								
TOTAL	460	100.0	12,143	100.0	481,164	100.0	429,617	100.0
1-9	186	40.4	853	7.0	37,537	7.8	32,727	7.6
10-19	102	22.2	1,417	11.7	60,962	12.7	53,638	12.5
20-29	53	11.5	1,278	10.5	53,718	11.2	47,485	11.1
30-39	33	7.1	1,110	9.1	45,540	9.5	40,523	9.5
40-49	21	4.6	926	7.6	37,330	7.8	33,485	7.8
50-99	43	9.4	2,978	24.5	115,770	24.1	104,406	24.3
100 AND OVER	22	4.9	3,680	29.5	130,307	27.1	117,352	27.3
<b>COMBINED GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCY</b>								
TOTAL	18	100.0	361	100.0	15,067	100.0	14,257	100.0
1-9	8	46.3	37	10.3	1,736	11.5	1,626	11.4
10-19	4	23.3	56	15.6	2,512	16.7	2,358	16.5
20-29	2	10.8	45	12.6	1,935	12.8	1,836	12.9
30-39	1	5.9	36	9.9	1,468	9.7	1,405	9.9
40-49	1	4.0	31	8.7	1,307	8.7	1,255	8.8
50-99	1	6.7	81	22.3	3,240	21.5	3,060	21.5
100 AND OVER	1	2.9	75	20.7	2,870	19.1	2,717	19.1
<b>GOVERNMENTAL HEALTH AGENCY</b>								
TOTAL	211	100.0	4,669	100.0	163,377	100.0	162,275	100.0
1-9	96	45.8	439	9.4	17,062	10.4	16,775	10.3
10-19	47	22.4	649	13.9	24,498	15.0	24,165	14.9
20-29	22	10.7	540	11.6	19,790	12.1	19,621	12.1
30-39	13	6.0	428	9.2	15,371	9.4	15,091	9.3
40-49	8	3.9	360	7.7	12,691	7.8	12,625	7.8
50-99	16	7.6	1,087	23.3	36,837	22.5	36,866	22.7
100 AND OVER	8	3.7	1,167	25.0	37,127	22.7	37,131	22.9

SEE FOOTNOTE AT END OF TABLE

TABLE 4 (CONTINUED)

 MEDICARE HOME HEALTH AGENCY SERVICES: PERSONS SERVED, VISITS, TOTAL CHARGES AND REIMBURSEMENTS  
 DISTRIBUTED BY TYPE OF AGENCY AND NUMBER OF VISITS TO PERSONS SERVED: 1983

NUMBER OF VISITS TO PERSONS SERVED	PERSONS SERVED		VISITS		TOTAL CHARGES		REIMBURSEMENTS	
	NUMBER IN THOUSANDS	PERCENT	NUMBER IN THOUSANDS	PERCENT	AMOUNT IN THOUSANDS	PERCENT	AMOUNT IN THOUSANDS	PERCENT
<b>HOSPITAL-BASED AGENCY</b>								
TOTAL	190	100.0	4,397	100.0	244,718	100.0	204,179	100.0
1-9	77	40.8	366	8.3	22,214	9.1	18,657	9.1
10-19	45	23.7	623	14.2	36,731	15.0	30,737	15.1
20-29	23	12.2	555	12.6	32,261	13.2	26,755	13.1
30-39	14	7.2	466	10.6	26,635	10.9	22,103	10.8
40-49	8	4.5	372	8.5	20,848	8.5	17,266	8.6
50-99	16	8.4	1,077	24.5	58,787	24.0	49,216	24.1
100 AND OVER	6	3.4	937	21.3	47,242	19.3	39,445	19.3
<b>PROPRIETARY AGENCY</b>								
TOTAL	228	100.0	7,560	100.0	381,848	100.0	303,523	100.0
1-9	68	29.6	328	4.3	17,730	4.6	13,852	4.6
10-19	49	21.6	693	9.2	36,600	9.6	28,936	9.5
20-29	30	13.3	733	9.7	38,112	10.0	30,298	10.0
30-39	21	9.1	706	9.3	36,389	9.5	29,018	9.6
40-49	14	6.3	635	8.4	32,496	8.5	25,851	8.6
50-99	30	13.2	2,078	27.5	104,040	27.2	83,110	27.4
100 AND OVER	16	6.9	2,389	31.6	116,481	30.5	92,458	30.5
<b>PRIVATE NONPROFIT AGENCY</b>								
TOTAL	227	100.0	7,158	100.0	338,876	100.0	261,461	100.0
1-9	70	30.7	341	4.8	15,946	5.0	13,353	5.1
10-19	50	22.2	709	9.9	35,048	10.3	27,151	10.4
20-29	31	13.7	754	10.5	36,960	10.9	28,524	10.9
30-39	19	8.5	664	9.3	32,244	9.5	24,896	9.5
40-49	13	5.8	584	8.2	28,099	8.3	21,701	8.3
50-99	29	12.7	1,996	27.9	93,784	27.7	72,741	27.8
100 AND OVER	14	6.3	2,111	29.5	95,796	28.3	73,095	28.0

1/ INCLUDES REHABILITATION FACILITY BASED AND SNF BASED AGENCIES NOT SHOWN SEPERATELY



TABLE 5

## MEDICARE HOME HEALTH AGENCY SERVICES: PERSONS SERVED, VISITS, AND CHARGES BY TYPE OF VISIT AND TYPE OF AGENCY: 1983

UTILIZATION AND TYPE OF VISIT	ALL AGENCIES	VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION	COMBINED GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY	GOVERNMENT	HOSPITAL BASED	PROPRIETARY	PRIVATE NONPROFIT	OTHER 1/
<b>PERSONS SERVED IN THOUSANDS</b>								
TOTAL 2/	1,351	460	18	211	190	228	227	18
NURSING CARE	1,267	436	17	201	179	208	211	16
HOME HEALTH AIDE	546	177	6	72	64	120	100	8
PHYSICAL THERAPY	399	138	4	43	58	79	70	7
OTHER 3/	256	91	2	16	38	55	49	4
<b>PERCENT OF PERSONS SERVED</b>								
TOTAL 4/	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
NURSING CARE	93.8	94.6	96.4	95.5	94.4	91.3	92.7	87.3
HOME HEALTH AIDE	40.4	38.3	32.4	34.1	34.0	52.7	43.8	43.6
PHYSICAL THERAPY	29.6	30.0	25.2	20.2	30.7	34.8	30.9	38.6
OTHER 3/	18.9	19.8	11.3	7.6	20.2	24.1	21.6	22.3
<b>VISITS IN THOUSANDS</b>								
TOTAL	36,844	12,143	361	4,669	4,397	7,560	7,158	557
NURSING CARE	17,804	5,937	190	2,380	2,285	3,362	3,397	252
HOME HEALTH AIDE	12,799	4,162	106	1,743	1,293	2,830	2,494	182
PHYSICAL THERAPY	4,459	1,418	49	404	577	1,016	908	87
OTHER 3/	1,785	636	16	143	243	354	359	35
<b>PERCENT OF VISITS</b>								
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
NURSING CARE	48.3	48.9	52.7	51.0	52.0	44.5	47.5	45.3
HOME HEALTH AIDE	34.7	34.2	29.3	37.3	29.4	37.4	34.8	32.7
PHYSICAL THERAPY	12.1	11.7	13.6	8.7	13.1	13.4	12.7	15.6
OTHER 3/	4.8	5.2	4.4	3.1	5.5	4.7	5.0	6.3

SEE FOOTNOTE AT END OF TABLE

TABLE 5 (CONTINUED)

MEDICARE HOME HEALTH AGENCY SERVICES: PERSONS SERVED, VISITS, AND CHARGES BY TYPE OF VISIT AND TYPE OF AGENCY: 1983

UTILIZATION AND TYPE OF VISIT	ALL AGENCIES	VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION	COMBINED GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY	GOVERNMENT	HOSPITAL BASED	PROPRIETARY	PRIVATE NONPROFIT	OTHER 1/
VISIT CHARGES IN THOUSANDS								
TOTAL	\$1,596,989	\$465,616	\$14,925	\$157,845	\$232,789	\$366,308	\$327,982	\$31,522
NURSING CARE	827,328	251,083	8,603	88,897	126,693	172,794	164,421	14,838
HOME HEALTH AIDE	457,589	122,661	3,267	44,479	56,898	121,725	98,863	9,696
PHYSICAL THERAPY	216,675	61,599	2,298	15,159	34,144	52,434	46,103	4,938
OTHER 3/	91,642	30,248	757	5,604	15,068	19,350	18,566	2,050
PERCENT OF VISIT CHARGES								
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
NURSING CARE	51.8	53.9	57.6	56.3	54.4	47.2	50.1	47.1
HOME HEALTH AIDE	28.7	26.3	21.9	28.2	24.4	33.2	30.1	30.8
PHYSICAL THERAPY	13.6	13.2	15.4	9.6	14.7	14.3	14.1	15.7
OTHER 3/	5.7	6.5	5.1	3.6	6.5	5.3	5.7	6.5

SEE FOOTNOTE AT END OF TABLE

TABLE 5 (CONTINUED)

## MEDICARE HOME HEALTH AGENCY SERVICES: PERSONS SERVED, VISITS, AND CHARGES BY TYPE OF VISIT AND TYPE OF AGENCY: 1983

UTILIZATION AND TYPE OF VISIT	ALL AGENCIES	VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION	COMBINED GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY	GOVERNMENT	HOSPITAL BASED	PROPRIETARY	PRIVATE NONPROFIT	OTHER 1/
AVERAGE NUMBER OF VISITS PER PERSON SERVED								
TOTAL	27.3	26.4	20.5	22.2	23.2	33.2	31.5	31.3
NURSING CARE	14.0	13.6	11.2	11.8	12.8	16.2	16.1	16.2
HOME HEALTH AIDE	23.4	23.5	18.6	24.2	20.1	23.6	25.0	23.4
PHYSICAL THERAPY	11.2	10.3	11.1	9.5	9.9	12.8	12.9	12.7
OTHER 3/	7.0	7.0	8.0	8.9	6.3	6.4	7.3	8.9
AVERAGE VISIT CHARGE PER VISIT								
TOTAL	\$43	\$38	\$41	\$34	\$53	\$48	\$46	\$57
NURSING CARE	46	42	45	37	55	51	48	59
HOME HEALTH AIDE	36	30	31	26	44	43	40	53
PHYSICAL THERAPY	49	43	47	38	59	52	51	57
OTHER 3/	51	48	48	39	62	55	52	58
AVERAGE VISIT CHARGE PER PERSON SERVED								
TOTAL	\$1,182	\$1,011	\$849	\$749	\$1,228	\$1,608	\$1,442	\$1,770
NURSING CARE	653	576	508	442	708	830	780	954
HOME HEALTH AIDE	838	695	573	618	883	1,014	992	1,248
PHYSICAL THERAPY	542	447	519	356	587	662	657	719
OTHER 3/	358	331	381	349	394	352	378	515

1/ INCLUDES REHABILITATION AND SKILLED NURSING FACILITY-BASED AGENCIES.

2/ DETAIL DOES NOT ADD TO TOTAL SINCE PERSONS MAY RECEIVE MORE THAN ONE TYPE OF SERVICE.

3/ INCLUDES SPEECH OR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, MEDICAL SOCIAL SERVICES, AND OTHER HEALTH DISCIPLINES.

4/ SUM OF PERCENTAGES GREATER THAN 100.0 BECAUSE PERSONS MAY RECEIVE MORE THAN ONE TYPE VISIT.



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## Definition of Terms

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Home health services: These are reimbursable services under Medicare which include intermittent skilled nursing care, physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, medical social services, home health aide services, services of interns and residents, medical supplies (except drugs and biologicals), and the use of medical equipment.

Home health service visit: A personal visit to the home of a patient to provide covered medical services.

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## Sources and Limitations of Data

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Data published in this report were obtained from billing forms submitted by HHA's for Medicare beneficiaries receiving reimbursable services in 1983. Figures shown are estimates based on a 40-percent sample of the enrolled population and are subject to sampling variability. The sample counts have been inflated to give an estimate of the utilization of HHA services for 1983.

It is estimated that approximately 95 percent of the bills eventually to be received for home health services in 1983 were included in this report. Therefore, the visit and reimbursement figures presented in this report should be viewed as an approximation of the magnitude of differences rather than final measures of use.

Payments shown are based on interim rates that are adjusted after the end of the accounting year according to reasonable costs of operation. Retroactive reimbursements are excluded from the data in these tables. Beginning July 1, 1979, limits were placed on the amounts Medicare would pay for HHA visits. Limits are established for each type of visit and are revised each year.